

Town of Washington



News and Calendar

June, 2006

Town Board Supports Island Police Department

An article appeared in the May 24 issue of the Door County Advocate with the unfortunate headline "Island wants county police." This is not true, and I'd like to set the record straight on this matter.

Over the past three years or more I have participated, along with other Town Board Members, in informal discussions with Door County Sheriff Terry Vogel to explore the desirability and the practicalities of having our

inappropriate for this matter to be pursued further at this time.

However, without my knowledge, Sheriff Terry Vogel took the discussion to a meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee on a unilateral basis. This led to inquiries by the media, since our private discussions had become a part of the public record.

Let me state unequivocally and for the record that the Town Board has no intention of seeking to place our Police officers under the control of Door County. In fact, our police officers presently enjoy a very close and

Broadband is coming to Washington Island

Most of you are aware, from the survey conducted early this year by the Washington Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. that discussions have been underway to bring high speed Internet service to all of Washington Island through the existing electric system.

We can now say that the dream is becoming a reality. The survey showed significant interest for this service among Islanders, and the Washington



A trio of familiar signs that the summer season is finally arriving on Washington Island

Island police force come under some degree of professional supervision by the Sheriff's Department. The most recent of these conversations took place in early April. At that time, I was told that the matter would have to be taken up with the Door County Law Enforcement Committee if any substantive discussion was to go forward. Subsequent to that discussion, and on the basis of additional information, I determined that it was

cooperative professional relationship with the Door County Sheriff's Department. Nothing more is needed.

Further, our fine officers, Tyler McGrane and Chris Utecht, have the complete support of your Town Board. We are fortunate indeed to have such dedicated and professional police officers serving our community, and I deeply regret the negative implications of the Advocate article.

Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. has signed an agreement with International Broadband Electric Communications, Inc. (IBEC) to provide Washington Island with Broadband over the Power Lines (BPL). This service, coupled with an inexpensive BPL modem, will make every electrical outlet in a subscriber's home an Internet connection, with speeds ranging from 256kbps to 3Mbps, depending on the level of service selected. The service will be

Continued on reverse.

Those interested in obtaining broadband in their homes may pre-register for service and reserve e-mail addresses starting on June 1, 2006, by visiting the website www.bpl.coop and filling out a simple form. Information about finalized rates, multiple computer hookups and other such questions will be available through IBEC.

At the May Town Board Meeting, unanimous approval was given to the concept of organizing an informal network of adults and youth leaders to provide a broader range of after school and weekend activities for the young people of Washington Island. It is not our present intention to make this a formal Town Committee, but rather to bring together interested and like-minded people and let the organization grow itself.

A sign-up sheet for those interested in participating will be placed on the two bulletin boards in the Community Center. You may also give your name to the staff in the Town Office, or e-mail me at chairman@washingtonisle.org. We are especially interested in having the involvement of several

While it is obvious that Washington Island cannot offer the range of activities that mainland towns afford, we believe that our cherished Island traditions of self-sufficiency will rise to the occasion. Our Island young people deserve nothing less than the best we can give them.

Just a reminder that youth activities in the gym, as well as any other uses of the gym, need to be scheduled through the Town Office – 847-2522 – to avoid unintended conflicts. During the school year, all use of the gym during school hours must be coordinated with the WI School office.

The Town Board is considering the adoption of a new Highway Ordinance for the Town of Washington, to replace an Ordinance that dates back to 1987. Copies of the proposed new Ordinance are available for inspection in the Town Office and the Library. This Ordinance will be considered at the July Town Board Meeting to allow plenty of time for citizen input. There will also be a Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance toward the end of June. You may submit comments and questions to the Town Office or by e-mail to chairman@washingtonisle.org.

The Town Crew works hard to keep our Town roads in good repair and free of hazards. As an example, they have recently trimmed bushes at several intersections to improve visibility. However, if you believe there are intersections that need to be trimmed or other hazards in the roadways, please contact the Town Office or send an e-mail to chairman@washingtonisle.org. Please do not try to contact members of the Town Crew directly.

During the winter and spring, the Town Crew constructed a large parking lot to the left of the roadway to the Beach. This parking lot is well marked with a sign at the entrance. Please use this parking lot when you visit Schoolhouse Beach instead of parking along the road next to the beach as before. The intent of the new parking lot is to relieve the unsafe congestion that has been experienced in recent years, which made ambulance access difficult and prevented the Cherry and Viking Trains from turning around. Your use of the new parking lot will also set an example for our visitors. With your help, we will greatly improve safety and convenience at Schoolhouse Beach.

Town Chairman

Visit the Washington Island Town Government website: www.washingtonisland-wi.gov for news and information about the Town and Town Government. We are working to convert the website from the original address - www.washingtonisle.org - which is still operational. For the next month or so the e-mail addresses townoffice@washingtonisle.org and chairman@washingtonisle.org are still effective. We welcome your suggestions on improving the usefulness and content of this website as we seek to maximize effective communications between the Town Government and the people of Washington Island.